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a no less mental tax, without adequate recompense. To the teacher, however, for whom it is especially designed, it will doubtless prove quite acceptable as an auxiliary to the more elementary text-books.

Several considerations appeared to demand a rather full examination from the "standpoint of the working-geologist of Glaciers." (1.) There is so urgent a demand for a standard work representing fully the present *status* of American Surface Geology (or Kameontology, as the writer prefers to term that branch of Geology), that almost any book on the subject might be adopted as such without duly weighing its fitness for the position. (2.) In its ambitious style and assumptious *ensemble* the work under review is quite unlike the ordinary text-books. (3.) It is the initial volume of an extended and costly series of works which, from their titles and the fact that they carry with them the prestige of a leading university, might naturally be regarded as the highest American authorities on the subjects treated. (4.) It was not deemed just to working geologists to suggest that the book could well be dispensed with without at the same time furnishing, as fully as practicable, the means of forming an independent judgment.

FARLEY, Iowa, Nov. 12, 1881.

LIVING OBJECTS FOR THE MICROSCOPE,

Mr. A. D. Balen, of Plainfield, New Jersey, has undertaken to collect living organisms suitable for microscopical investigations, and forward them by mail to those interested in such studies.

This is a great convenience to those living in cities, or

those who are unacquainted with the localities where collections of particular forms can be made.

Among the living objects which Mr. Balen has sent out to his correspondents may be mentioned—

POLYZOA.—Pectinatella, Plumatella and Fredericella.

INSECTS.—Larva of Dragon Fly and Dyticus (water tigers).

ENTOMOSTRACA.—Bosmina, Daphnella, Diaptomus and Sida.

WORMS.—Nais, Stylaria and Planaria.

ROTIFERS.—Lacinularia, Conachilus, Floscularia, Melicerta, Limnias and Neteus.

POLYPS.—Hydra, with the curious parasite Urceolaria pediculus.

BELL ANIMALCULES.—Vorticella, Carchesium and Epistylus, Stentor, Vaginicola and Cothurnia.

INFUSORIA.—Spirostomium, Euglena and Dinobryon.

RHIZOPODS.—Arcella, Actinophrys and Clathrulina.

SPONGE.—Spongilla.

PLANTS.—Utricularia, Vallisneria, Anacharis and Nitella, Volvox, Protococcus and Pediatrum.

DIATOMS.—Surirella, Gomphonema and Fragilaria.

DESMIDS.—Scenedesmus, Desmidium and Micrasterias.

We hope that microscopists will support Mr. Balen in this little enterprise, for it will prove of the greatest benefit to them. A specimen package will be sent for 30 cents.

THE giant forces which scientific discovery is putting in the hands of engineers bid fair to develop a particular form of the profession.—*Engineering News*.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR NEW YORK CITY FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 24, 1881.

Latitude $40^{\circ} 45' 58''$ N.; Longitude $73^{\circ} 57' 58''$ W.; height of instruments above the ground, 53 feet; above the sea, 97 feet; by self-recording instruments.

BAROMETER.						THERMOMETERS.											
DECEMBER.	MEAN FOR THE DAY.		MAXIMUM.		MINIMUM.		MEAN.		MAXIMUM.				MINIMUM.				MAXI'M
	Reduced to Freezing.	Time.	Reduced to Freezing.	Time.	Reduced to Freezing.	Time.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dry Bulb.	Time.	Wet Bulb.	Time.	Dry Bulb.	Time.	Wet Bulb.	Time.	
Sunday, 18..	30.137		30.264	12 p. m.	30.100	7 a. m.	41.3	37.3	50	1 p. m.	42	1 p. m.	33	7 a. m.	32	7 a. m.	99.
Monday, 19..	30.309		30.382	10 a. m.	30.264	0 a. m.	40.3	38.0	45	3 p. m.	41	3 p. m.	34	8 a. m.	34	8 a. m.	85.
Tuesday, 20..	30.159		30.288	0 a. m.	30.112	3 p. m.	42.6	39.0	47	4 p. m.	42	4 p. m.	38	4 a. m.	36	6 a. m.	65.
Wednesday, 21..	30.276		30.318	10 a. m.	30.152	0 a. m.	40.7	37.0	43	3 p. m.	39	0 a. m.	38	8 a. m.	36	8 a. m.	78.
Thursday, 22..	29.864		30.228	0 a. m.	29.516	12 p. m.	49.3	47.3	53	4 p. m.	51	4 p. m.	39	2 a. m.	38	2 a. m.	49.
Friday, 23..	29.405		29.774	12 p. m.	29.268	1 p. m.	42.6	42.0	55	12 m.	53	7 a. m.	25	12 p. m.	25	12 p. m.	100.
Saturday, 24..	30.188		30.300	11 p. m.	29.774	0 a. m.	27.0	26.0	32	3 p. m.	31	3 p. m.	21	8 a. m.	21	8 a. m.	79.

Mean for the week.....	30.048 inches.	Mean for the week.....	40.5 degrees	Dry.	Wet.
Maximum for the week at 10 a. m., Dec. 19th.....	30.382 "	Maximum for the week at 12 m., 23d.....	55.	"	at 7 am 23d, 53.
Minimum " " at 12 p. m., Dec. 23d.....	29.268 "	Minimum " " 8 am., 24th.....	21.	"	at 8 am 24th, 21.
Range.....	1.114 "	Range " ".....	34.	"	32.

WIND.					HYGROMETER.									CLOUDS.			RAIN AND *SNOW.				OZONE.		
DECEMBER.	DIRECTION.			VELOCITY IN MILES.	FORCE IN LBS. PER SQ. FEET.		FORCE OF VAPOR.			RELATIVE HUMIDITY.			CLEAR, OVERCAST.			DEPTH OF RAIN AND SNOW IN INCHES.							
	7 a. m.	2 p. m.	o p. m.	Distance for the Day.	Max.	Time.	7 a. m.	2 p. m.	9 p. m.	7 a. m.	2 p. m.	9 p. m.	7 a. m.	2 p. m.	9 p. m.	7 a. m.	2 p. m.	9 p. m.	Time of Begin- ning.	Time of End- ing.	Dura- tion h. m	Amount of water	
Sunday, 18.	w. s. w.	w. n. w.	n. w.	230	2	7.00 am	.168	.153	.199	89	44	74	3 cir. cu.	1 cir.	o	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	o	
Monday, 19.	n. w.	s.	s. w.	92	1	11.10 pm	.183	.195	.221	90	67	83	1 cir.	1 cir.	o	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	o	
Tuesday, 20.	w. s. w.	w. s. w.	w. n. w.	182	2½	3.15 pm	.194	.169	.208	81	54	75	8 cir. cu.	10	8 cu.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	o	
Wednesday, 21.	n. n. e.	e.	n. e.	119	2	5.50 am	.173	.164	.181	72	58	73	2 cir.	9 cir.	10	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	o	
Thursday, 22.	e.	s. s. e.	s.	154	3	1.15 am	.231	.334	.348	83	86	86	10	10	10	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	o	
Friday, 23.	w. s. w.	n. n. e.	n.	265	12½	5.00 pm	.376	.267	.174	87	100	100	10	9 cu.	8 cu.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	o	
Saturday, 24.	n. n. e.	n. w.	n. w.	178	2	1.20 am	.113	.113	.167	100	67	100	o	o	o	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	o	
Distance traveled during the week.....							1,220 miles.			Total amount of water for the week.....												.75 inch.	
Maximum force.....							12½ lbs.			Duration of rain.....												1 day, 4 hours, 15 minutes	

Distance traveled during the week..... 1,220 miles. Total amount of water for the week..... .75 inch.
Maximum force..... 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Duration of rain..... 1 day, 4 hours, 15 minutes

DANIEL DRAPER, Ph. D.

Director Meteorological Observatory of the Department of Public Parks, New York.